



November / December 2014

The Dredging *Link*

Dredged Material Management Program Annual Meeting

The MPA held its annual meeting for the Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) on November 6th. Approximately 90 people gathered at the Sollers Point Multipurpose Center in Dundalk, hosted by the Turner Station Conservation Team.

Attendees largely included members of the advisory committees and agencies that participate in the DMMP. The DMMP Citizens Advisory Committee, DMMP Management Committee, Harbor Team, Hart Miller Island, Cox Creek Oversight Committees, Masonville Citizens Advisory Committee, Innovative Reuse Committee, and the Bay Enhancement Workgroup came together to review the year's accomplishments and look forward to what the coming decade may hold for the dredging program. Other community activists also joined the crowd.

MPA Deputy Executive Director Kathy Broadwater reviewed the most recent business statistics, sharing information on Baltimore's place among ports nationally and current data on the various cargoes that cross port terminals in Baltimore. She reported on accomplishments of the past year, including the designation of Masonville as the nation's first urban wildlife refuge.

Dr. Don Boesch presented the Management Committee's report for 2014 and recommendations for 2015. Dave Blazer, Deputy Director of MPA's Harbor Development, spoke about the importance of strategic planning for budgets, placement capacity for dredged material, and environmental requirements.



Fran Taylor, chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee, challenged attendees to reflect on two key questions: *What is good and smart growth for the port and its stakeholders? What will the port look like in 25 to 40 years?* "We should be very proud that we were on the forefront in recognizing how important and invaluable citizen involvement can be," Taylor said. "Ports must contribute to the quality of life in the community."

DMMP Annual Meeting Continued . . .

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Poplar Island Tour for the Cox Creek Citizen's Oversight Committee

On October 28th, one of the last warm days of autumn, members of the Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee (COC) took their first tour of Poplar Island — the site of an award-winning environmental restoration project that uses dredged material from shipping channels in the Chesapeake Bay.



The Cox Creek COC was reestablished earlier this year and is in the process of becoming familiar with the State of Maryland's dredging program and Port of Baltimore operations.

The members were impressed with the facility, the island's restoration, and expansion plans. One member was very excited to see the island up close, as his grandchildren have released terrapins on the island. Another member hopes to bring his grandchildren to the island after tours resume in the spring.

The committee will tour an MPA terminal this winter to continue learning about the Port.

DMMP Annual Meeting Continued...

The highlight of the meeting was the time spent in discussion groups, when participants shared thoughts on three questions:

1. What new or revised policies might help the DMMP during the next decade?
2. What are your biggest concerns regarding existing or planned dredged material management projects?
3. How can we enhance outreach?

Many creative ideas were suggested, including potential legislative changes, the need to develop innovative ways of managing dredged material, the importance of advance planning for end-use of placement sites, the desire for more engagement with the legislature, and the need to continue working with communities and stakeholders on sound dredging policies.

One newcomer, who had never attended a DMMP meeting, commented about how impressed she was with the engagement of a wide variety of stakeholders and the openness of the dialogue.

For a copy of the 2014 Annual Report, visit www.mpasafepassage.org or contact Katrina Jones at kjones1@marylandports.com.

Confined Aquatic Disposal Pilot Project Moves Forward

The MPA has moved a step closer to implementing a pilot project for a dredged material placement technique called "Confined Aquatic Disposal" (CAD). CAD consists of placing material dredged into a cell created in underwater sediment.

The MPA has applied to the Maryland Department of the Environment for a permit to construct a CAD cell near the existing dredged material placement site at Masonville.

The permit will set the parameters for monitoring the project, enabling MPA to assess whether this technology can be safely used in the Baltimore harbor, where it is becoming increasingly difficult to find appropriate placement sites for dredged material.

Ports around the country have used CAD successfully for years. The ports of Bremerton, WA; Boston, MA; and Los Angeles, CA, among others, rely on CAD for some of their dredging needs.

Fall Fishing Day at Masonville Cove

The MPA, Maryland Environmental Service, Living Classrooms Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Aquarium hosted a Fall Fishing Day at Masonville Cove on September 6th.



Approximately 20 people attended from the surrounding communities of Brooklyn, Curtis Bay and Cherry Hill. Half of the participants were “first time fishers” and did not want to leave – they were hooked!

The staff at Masonville Cove is now developing a rod-and-reel loaner program.

CADD Pilot Project Continued...

The thin layer of silt and clay maintenance material would first be dredged from the site and placed in a containment site. Next the sand layer would be removed and used for construction purposes. The hole created by removing the sand would be filled with sediment dredged from the Baltimore harbor.

CAD Concept



MPA hopes to begin the project in June 2015, after the "time of year" restrictions on dredging in the harbor, and complete it by late 2015.

Masonville Cove Hosts 2nd Open House

Curious community members turned out for the second annual open house at Masonville Cove, which took place on Saturday, October 18th, as part of Baltimore's Port Fest.



About 20 early risers came for the 7 a.m. bird walk, and an additional 30 people joined in the open house activities that ran from 10 a.m. through 2 p.m. The MPA, Maryland Environmental Service, Living Classrooms Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Aquarium helped coordinate and host activity stations, which offered choices such as geocaching, fishing from the pier, exploring the Masonville Cove Environmental Center, potting wetland plants, and touring the Masonville dredged material placement site.

One adult and two youths from the local community won raffle prizes, taking home two fishing kits and a tackle box.